

MEMORANDUM FOR: D/Public Affairs

The DCI dictated this before he left on Thursday. He wanted you to take a look at this letter before it is mailed out.

Debbie
7 July

Date

FORM 101 USE PREVIOUS
5-75 EDITIONS

The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D. C. 20505

3 July 1986

Mr. Lawrence B. Sulc
The Nathan Hale Institute
Suite 208
422 First Street, S. E.
Washington, D. C. 20003

Dear Mr. Sulc,

Thank you very much for your letter of 23 June. I am more than pleased to have the opportunity to straighten out the NEWSWEEK article.

We are proud of the Nathan Hale statue on our campus and it will always be there. We are considering arranging for a statue of General Donovan in our new building. I did think about Hercules Mulligan but I can't find out enough about him and nobody seems to know what he looked like. Also, Nathan Hale covers the Revolution period beautifully and the only other one to compare with him as an intelligence officer is George Washington. Donovan is a good representative of our more recent national intelligence experience.

I am sure that I never said what NEWSWEEK attributed to me. As a matter of fact, I never even read about it until your letter came in. At the dinner when the Donovan medal was awarded to President Reagan I did say to the guests that we planned to put a statue of General Donovan in our new building. I might even have been jocular about it, but I don't remember exactly what I said. I certainly intended no reflection on an authentic and outstanding hero like Nathan Hale.

With best regards.

Sincerely,

William J. Casey



Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C.
(703) 482-7676

George V. Lauder
Director, Public Affairs

1 July 1986

DCI:

I wonder if you might not like to send a few
soothing words to Larry Sulc of the Nathan Hale
Institute.

STAT



George V. Lauder

The Nathan Hale Institute

Executive Registry

86-2845x/1



"I only regret that I have but one life to lose
for my country." - Nathan Hale

June 23, 1986

The Honorable William J. Casey
Director of Central Intelligence
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Casey:

I refer to an item in Newsweek, June 23, 1986, page 5.

The Nathan Hale Institute is an independent organization devoted to nonpartisan research in the area of domestic and foreign intelligence with particular emphasis on the role of intelligence operations in a free society. The Institutes's principal purpose is to increase public awareness and stimulate debate and scholarly pursuit of important intelligence related-issues.

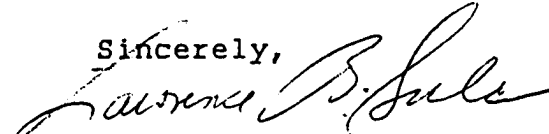
The members of the board of trustees of the Nathan Hale Institute believe that the Newsweek item was not accurate, inasmuch as its representation of your views on Nathan Hale did not conform with your extensive knowledge of the Revolutionary War period. There are few persons in the United States who are as well versed on that period as you. If we are mistaken and the Newsweek article is correct, we would like to hear from you.

The board of trustees of the Nathan Hale Institute disagrees particularly with Newsweek's source, in the depiction of Nathan Hale, attributed to you, as having "fouled up the only mission he was ever given." We believe that you are too much a historian to have said that. As you are no doubt aware, the young officer was in fact spectacularly successful in his first intelligence mission - a "special operations" assignment. Although unsuccessful in returning to American lines after the better known reconnaissance mission, which ended in his capture and death, he was successful in several important aspects of that operation. Considering that he was essentially an amateur, he did quite well and, as it turned out, was captured by the best colonial "special forces" unit the British fielded. I am enclosing, as of possible interest, a copy of my remarks at a special event honoring Nathan Hale on the anniversary of his

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Streeter Bass, quoted by William R. Johnson in the Spring 1986 issue of The International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence, sums up Hale's final operation as follows: "An agent dispatched on what turned out to be a useless errand, caught because of insufficient preparation and only elementary attention to cover, immediately and unceremoniously executed, and buried in a forgotten grave..." "Why do we still revere his memory?" Johnson asks. "Streeter's answer," he says, "is worth our thinking about: 'Hale is what he is in the American pantheon not because of what he did, but because of why he did it.'"

We share your regard for General William Donovan. We believe that there is room for a statue of Gen. Donovan as well as Capt. Hale at CIA Headquarters (and perhaps Hercules Mulligan, too), as there is room for both Donovan and Hale in the pantheon of American intelligence heroes. Both contributed in different epochs in different ways. We believe both are authentic American intelligence heroes and we think that you agree.

Sincerely,

Lawrence B. Sulc

Encl.

In Honor of Nathan Hale

Remarks of Lawrence B. Sulc
President, Nathan Hale Institute
At a Wreath Laying at the Nathan Hale Statue
Washington, D.C.
June 6, 1986

Throughout American history, until well into the second world war, our nation depended repeatedly on amateur intelligence personnel to fill its needs in this vital area. These were the "minutemen" of intelligence, if you will. Nathan Hale was one of those countless American civilians who over two centuries have rallied to the colors in time of need. He became a soldier and he became a spy. "I wish to be useful," he said, "and every kind of service necessary to the public good becomes honorable by becoming necessary."

Early in the war he led a daring "special operation" against the British in New York harbor. Leading a small group of volunteers, he succeeded in seizing an enemy supply vessel, protected by the guns of a man-of-war, without loss of life on either side. He thus captured desperately-needed supplies for Washington's forces.

Hale was untrained and unequipped for his final intelligence mission. He lacked a cypher, contact instructions and a communication system. He was without administrative or headquarters support. His case officer was dead, killed the day after the young captain was dispatched. Hale had volunteered for a dangerous mission and, although ill-prepared against great odds, through his own initiative, resourcefulness and personal courage, he nonetheless succeeded in every respect but one. On his way back through the "no man's land" between the lines, he failed to elude a patrol of the enemy's best "special forces" unit. Every school child has heard of Roger's Rangers; it was these elite troops who captured the inexperienced, 21-year-old soldier-spy. The rest is history.

America is indeed fortunate today to have permanent, professional intelligence services and to have within them so many skilled, dedicated people, determined to keep American free. We need to recognize the continuing contribution of these people in our national intelligence community. So, today, we honor the memory of Captain Nathan Hale, an early practitioner of American intelligence, who symbolizes the selfless dedication of our nation's intelligence personnel. Hale regretted that he had "but one life to lose" for his country, but he had told a friend before he departed on that fateful mission: "If the exigencies of my country demand a peculiar service, its claims to perform that service are imperious." We thank Nathan Hale for his service and his example, and we express our appreciation to the personnel of our national intelligence community today.

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE 5

NEWSWEEK
23 June 1986

P E R I S C O P E



Models of Intelligence: 'Wild Bill'
Donovan (left), the CIA's Hale



Spy Statue

Central Intelligence Agency Director William Casey has never been an admirer of Nathan Hale or a statue of the hanged Revolutionary War patriot at the entrance to CIA headquarters in Langley, Va. Now, after years of grumbling that Hale "fouled up the only mission he was ever given" (and was caught spying by the Brit-

ish in New York), Casey has ordered a new statue honoring his own favorite American spy hero: Gen. William (Wild Bill) Donovan, founder of the Office of Strategic Services, Casey's unit in World War II and the precursor to today's CIA. The CIA has not yet chosen the sculptor or the location for the new statue.